

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2657 - SB 2640

March 9, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Increases the civil penalty, for any public service company or corporation found guilty of extortion, unjust discrimination, or giving unreasonable preference or advantage, to an amount not less than one week's value of the undue or unreasonable preference or advantage given.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-122, public service companies or corporations are currently fined a sum not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,000.
- Public service companies and corporations to whom the provisions of this bill apply are currently subject to the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA), which is responsible for the oversight of investor owned utilities, not municipally owned utilities.
- According to TRA, the instances of public service companies or corporations found guilty of these charges are infrequent.
- Any cost associated with implementing the provisions of this legislation can be accommodated within existing TRA resources without an increased appropriation.
- It is assumed all civil penalties levied in accordance with this legislation will be to private companies providing public services, not to municipally owned companies.
- It is estimated that collections from civil penalties associated with the provisions of this bill will not cause a significant increase in state revenues.
- Any fiscal impact to state and local government is considered not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

HB 2657 - SB 2640

/jrh